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Date: 7/10/2013 2:37:05 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest, 7/10/13

OPA Daily Digest for 7/10/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. John Shimkus (Ill.) – 7/1/13: Rep. Shimkus requests a West Lake Landfill site visit. Due: 7/8/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb) – 6/20/13: Constituent concerns regarding a contract awarded on the Madison County Superfund Site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Dubuque Telegraph Herald – Allison Hinga – 7/2/13: Questions about Peoples Natural Gas site public meeting and proposed plan. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

KTVI Channel 2, St. Louis – Bonita Cornute – 7/10/13: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post Dispatch - Blunt firm on blocking new EPA head despite lobbying effort - 7/10/13 - Four months have gone by since the White House nominated Gina McCarthy as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, longer than any EPA head has awaited Senate confirmation. McCarthy may ultimately get the job with support of Democrats and a modest segment of Republicans despite assorted complaints about President Barack Obama's new plan to regulate carbon emissions from power plants.
http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/political-fix/blunt-firm-on-blocking-new-epa-head-despite-lobbying-effort/article_ac4a896a-53a2-51df-8112-4df10a89e96e.html

Daily Caller - Republican opposition to EPA nominee eroding - 7/10/13 - Republican opposition to the nomination of Gina McCarthy to head the Environmental Protection Agency is fading as a top Republican senator vowed not to filibuster her confirmation. "I've had very productive conversations with EPA over the last several weeks, and believe the agency has taken significant steps forward on our five transparency requests," said Louisiana Sen. David Vitter, the top Republican on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.
<http://dailycaller.com/2013/07/10/republican-opposition-to-epa-nominee-eroding/>

Wall Street Journal - Obama's EPA Pick Clears One Hurdle - 7/9/13 - President Barack Obama's pick to head the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, has faced a grueling road to Senate confirmation since her nomination was announced in March, though that's more because of the agency she's tapped to lead than any ill will towards her personally.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/07/09/obamas-epa-pick-clears-one-hurdle/>

Associated Press - Group sues EPA over invasive species regulations - 7/10/13 - An environmental group is suing the federal government, seeking tougher rules dealing with ballast water discharges from ships to prevent more invasive species from reaching U.S. waterways. The National Wildlife Federation says Wednesday it has filed the lawsuit with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Washington, D.C., circuit.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/07/10/4338386/group-sues-epa-over-invasive-species.html>

Reuters - Republican senator won't filibuster Obama's EPA pick - 7/9/13 - David Vitter of Louisiana, the ranking Republican on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said he would support a full Senate vote on McCarthy now that the EPA had agreed to a series of requests he made to address complaints about transparency at the agency.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/09/us-usa-epa-mccarthy-idUSBRE96819|20130709>

Associated Press - EPA vows to improve transparency removing 1 obstacle to Senate vote on new chief - 7/9/13 - Louisiana Republican Sen. David Vitter said Tuesday that he won't delay a Senate vote on President Barack Obama's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency after securing a deal to boost transparency at the agency. Vitter, the top Republican on the Senate environment panel, has been one of the biggest obstacles to Gina McCarthy's nomination. In May, he led a GOP boycott that delayed a critical vote to advance her bid. She eventually cleared the panel solely on votes from Democrats.

<http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/214781171.html>

KWQC-TV Ch. 6 - Knox County Makes Plan to Solve Courthouse Radon Problem - 7/10/13 - Knox county officials now have a plan in place on how to fix the high radon levels at the county courthouse. Officials said the dangerous gas has been a problem at the courthouse for more than a decade and has only been getting worse. A report released in June found radon levels in the courthouse to be dangerous, according to EPA standards. The radon level in one of the areas in the basement even registered at more than 15 times the level the EPA considers dangerous.

<http://www.kwqc.com/story/22800005/knox-county-makes-plan-to-solve-courthouse-radon-problem>

Huffington Post - Harry Reid Tees Up Potential Filibuster Rule Fight - 7/10/13 - Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) signaled Tuesday that his Democratic caucus members are becoming so frustrated with Republicans blocking President Barack Obama's nominees that they will again consider whether to invoke the so-called nuclear option to change Senate rules.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/09/harry-reid-filibuster_n_3568948.html

Huffington Post - Anti-Frackers Turn Focus On State Of Colorado After Win At Boulder County Level - 7/10/13 - Feeling the wind is at their backs, many activists who attended a Frack-Free Colorado meeting in Boulder on Tuesday night wanted to discuss the next steps toward a statewide fracking moratorium or ban on the practice. The 20 or so people who volunteered to be in a group focusing on a statewide ballot initiative found there is a steep mountain to climb before such a vote could be held, though.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/10/coming-off-win-at-boulder_n_3572334.html?utm_hp_ref=green&ir=Green

ABC News - Group Sues EPA Over Invasive Species Regulations - 7/10/13 - An environmental group is suing the federal government, seeking tougher rules dealing with ballast water discharges from ships to prevent more invasive species from reaching U.S. waterways. The National Wildlife Federation says Wednesday it has filed the lawsuit with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Washington, D.C., circuit. It targets a permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency in April that regulates discharges from commercial vessels.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/group-sues-epa-invasive-species-regulations-19627390#.Ud2rldLQpmM>

The Hill - House panel approves bill curtailing EPA power on climate regs - 7/10/13 - A House panel approved legislation Wednesday imposing tough new restrictions on the Environmental Protection Agency's power to enact regulations seen as hurting the economy. The GOP-backed Energy Consumer Relief Act cruised through the Energy and Commerce Committee's subcommittee on Energy and Power, despite opposition from Democrats, who derided the bill as an attack on the environment.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/legislation/310133-panel-approves-bill-to-rein-in-epa-despite-flat-earth-society-criticism->

Washington Post - EPA nominee Gina McCarthy to miss Mexico jaunt - 7/10/13 - Gina McCarthy, President Obama's pick to head the EPA, has a new reason to be irritated

about having her nomination held up in the Senate: it's causing her to miss out on what sounds like a fantastic conference in scenic Los Cabos, Mexico.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/in-the-loop/post/epa-nominee-gina-mccarthy-to-miss-mexico-jaunt/2013/07/09/7d702dca-e8b6-11e2-a301-ea5a8116d211_blog.html

Truth-Out - Senator Boxer is Losing Faith in the EPA, and So Should We - 7/10/13 - In April, a deadly explosion in April killed at least 12, sent an earthquake-like tremor through the town of West, Texas, and blasted out windows and leveled buildings, including schools and homes. It was a disaster that could have been avoided. Ammonium nitrate stored at a fertilizer plant very likely caused the catastrophic events, even though the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) had recommended that the EPA adopt stricter safety measures for reactive chemicals, including ammonium nitrate, over a decade ago.

<http://truth-out.org/news/item/17478-senator-boxer-is-losing-faith-in-the-epa-and-so-should-we>

WND - BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY SUES EPA - 7/10/13 - National beekeeping organizations along with the National Honey Bee Advisory Board are suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its approval of the pesticide Sulfoxaflor. They say it's "highly toxic" to honey bees and other insect pollinators.

http://www.wnd.com/2013/07/beekeeping-industry-sues-epa/?cat_orig=money

PJ Media - Now the EPA Wants to Regulate How Cold Your Beer Can Be - 7/10/13 - In a seemingly innocuous revision of its Energy Star efficiency requirements announced June 27, the Environmental Protection Agency included an "optional" requirement for a "smart-grid" connection for customers to electronically connect their refrigerators or freezers with a utility provider.

<http://pjmedia.com/tatler/2013/07/10/now-the-epa-wants-to-regulate-how-cold-your-beer-can-be/>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

7/11/13 – All Hands Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Amanda Halstead, 7827

7/15-16/13 – Annual Budget Forum, Washington DC, Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/18/13 – Kansas City Bi-State Brownfields Coalition Kick-Off Event, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Belinda Young, 7463

7/23/13 – Meet with Governor Brandstad and IDNR. Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

7/25/13 – Missouri Environmental Conference at the Lake – Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

7/26/13 – 2013 Regional Local Emergency Planning and Response Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

7/29/13 – Congressman Clay Carter Carburetor Event, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

8/14-15/13 – Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards Ceremony, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

8/27/13 – Visit Kickapoo Nation, Horton, Kan. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

DRA:

7/11/13 – All Hands Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Amanda Halstead, 7827

7/15-16/13 – Annual Budget Forum, Washington DC. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/17-18/13 - Executive Management Council, Washington DC, Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

7/18/13 – FY2013 Cross Cutting Fundamental Strategy Mid-Year Progress Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

8/13-14/13 – EPA/DOD Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and Environmental Security Technology Certification Program conference, Washington, DC. Contact: Clint Sperry, 7157

8/28/13 – State of Missouri – Chem/Bio Functional Exercise, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Megan Schuette, 7630

WWPD

7/12/13 – Nutrient Reduction Strategy Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

7/21-26/13 – National NPDES Permit Writers' Conference, Shepherdstown, W. Virginia. Contacts: Glenn Curtis, 7726, Sunny Wellesley, 7136

7/24-25/13 – Public Water Supply System End of Year Meeting with Nebraska Health and Human Services, Lincoln, Neb. Contacts: Ken Deason, 7585, Scott Marquess, 7131

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